



COLLIN COUNTY

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MEMO

Date: December 2, 2014
To: Commissioners Court
From: Clarence Daugherty, P.E., Director of Engineering
Subject: Planning Strategically for Transportation in Collin County

The Director of Engineering will present an approach for the Court's consideration for planning for transportation. The presentation will capture comments already made by various members of the Court in order to suggest a strategic approach to planning. The emphasis will be on working towards the transportation system that will support the build-out population and employment in Collin County. This strategic approach would require continued partnership with TxDOT, the Cities and NCTCOG (COG), in order to identify and develop the needed transportation system. The Deputy TxDOT District Engineer, Kelly Selman, the Director of Transportation at COG, Michael Morris, and the cities have been invited to hear this presentation and to participate in the discussion.

The desired result of the discussion would be agreement among members of the Commissioners Court that this is the appropriate approach for future activity in transportation. It is not intended that this discussion would include discussions about funding – that is a later step. Instead the intention is to re-focus the County's activities to the longer term. Hopefully, the County's position will influence other transportation partners in the County to focus on build-out for planning future projects.

Michael Morris, in preliminary discussions about this, has indicated his agreement with a strategic approach and asked that Collin County identify six or so corridors that the County considers critical. This would allow COG to watch for opportunities to assist the County with corridor studies for the identified corridors. This would also provide TxDOT with the County's priorities for future highway planning.

If the Commissioners Court agrees with this approach, it is recommended that the build-out scenario in the mobility plan be "re-visited". It is important that the build-out projections be as accurate as possible, even though such long-term projections are certainly estimates at best. The recent Mobility Plan Update included some assumptions that development in some parts of the County would be restrained because of lack of transportation and lack of water and sewer. While these were reasonable assumptions, it is recommended that those assumptions be changed so that we can see what full potential of development is in the County.

Likewise the travel demand models that were run were restrained by the expected size of the various transportation facilities. It is recommended that another travel demand model be run for build-out without constraints. This will tell us how much traffic would travel in various corridors if the facilities were as large as needed. This will give us the "picture" of what will be needed in the way of a transportation system when Collin County is built-out.

The next steps would be to engage a consultant to develop the alternative build-out scenario and to identify several corridors for NCTCOG assistance.

CC: Bill Bilyeu
Tracy Homfeld